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# FABIAN SOCIETY, LONDON

# 64th ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st MARCH
1947

# FABIAN SOCIETY 64th ANNUAL REPORT

## GENERAL

### INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report is very much thinner than that presented last year; and the reason is the obvious one—shortage of paper. The Society's allocation has been heavily cut, and it is literally true that every page devoted to the Annual Report means a reduction in the amount available for pamphlets, the *Quarterly*, etc. Under these circumstances, the only sensible thing to do is to cut the Report to the barest bones; it will be supplemented at the Annual General Meeting by fuller statements from the various secretaries. It will be clear, however, from its contents that an attenuated Report is not the result of a decrease in activity.

The year just over has presented us with a threefold problem. First, to fit the organisation and work of the Society to the changed political situation, with a Labour Government not merely in office but running into its first storms; on this, much discussion and experimentation has taken place, and is still proceeding. Second, to make ends meet in terms of increasing cost of *all* budgetary items, of which wages and salaries are not the least; the financial statement shows that notwithstanding great efforts, this has not been satisfactorily achieved, and the situation must be faced. Third, to overhaul and strengthen the central administration of the Society, which has proved inadequate to sustain the burden laid on it; this has been done, though not without cost.

### MEMBERSHIP

The figures of membership presented in the 1946 Annual Report were unfortunately too optimistic. Owing partly to enthusiastic preoccupation with the 1945 election and its results, partly to the interregnum following John Parker's resignation, and partly to the overstrain of the central machinery referred to above, the membership roll was inadequately checked, and subscriptions allowed to fall into arrears. A drastic reorganisation and purging was undertaken, with the result that the figures given below for 1947 do show, within a very slight margin of error, the actual paid-up membership on which the Society can rely. The figures for 1946 are reprinted here from the last Report in accordance with previous practice; it must be stressed, however, that they were not correct and no strict comparison is therefore valid.

MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

| *March* 31 | 1947 | 1946 |
|---|---|---|
| Full Members | 3373 | 3451 |
| Associates | 1124 | 1132 |
| 5/- Members | 178 | 190 |
| D L P's, T U's, Co-op's, etc. | 104 | 169 |
| Libraries and Miscellaneous Subscribing Bodies | 63 | 39 |
| British Fabian Societies | 126 | 103 |
| Fabian Societies Overseas | 5 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 4973 | 5089 |
| Paid up Membership of Local Societies (excluding National Members) | 3427 | 2998 |
| TOTAL | 8400 | 8087 |
| International Bureau | 339 | 380 |
| Colonial Bureau | 501 | 462 |

## JUBILEE RALLY AND MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

With the generous cooperation of the *Daily Herald* the Society celebrated its Diamond Jubilee (postponed owing to war) with a great Sunday evening meeting and concert at the Albert Hall, attended by 6,000 people. Professor Laski presided, and addresses were given by Clement Attlee, the Prime Minister; Herbert Morrison, Lord President of the Council; Ellen Wilkinson, Minister of Education; and John Strachey, Minister of Food. Sir Thomas Beecham conducted the orchestra and made a pungent short speech which was much appreciated. The Local Societies' Committee, in conjunction with the Central London Society, organised in the afternoon a very successful tea meeting for members from all over the country. In connection with the Rally, a membership drive appealing particularly to professional workers and members of local authorities was undertaken, which produced a considerable number of new members between November 1946 and March 1947.

## OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE

Much to everyone's regret, G. D. H. Cole resigned the Chairmanship which he had held since 1939, when the Society first sprang into new life. Professor Harold Laski succeeded him, in time to preside at the Jubilee Rally. Alderman Emil Davies was again elected unopposed as Treasurer, and we are very sorry to learn that after so many years of service he finds the office too heavy to carry any longer. Emil Davies first came on the Executive Committee in 1911; he has been Treasurer (no sinecure office, especially during these latter years) since 1936. The Society owes him a very great deal.

The elected members of the Executive were: Margaret Cole, John Strachey, M P, John Parker, M P, Arthur Skeffington, M P, Ian Mikardo, M P, Lord Faringdon, Professor P. M. S. Blackett, Ellen Wilkinson, M P, Dr N. Barou, H. D. Hughes, M P, E. F. M. Durbin, M P, Dr W. A. Robson, Michael Young and Raymond Postgate. During the year the following were co-opted: Jack Gray, J. F. Horrabin, Dr Arthur Lewis, Christopher Mayhew, M P, Michael Stewart, M P, Geoffrey Wilson, Leonard Woolf, Patrick Gordon-Walker, M P, Mark Abrams, Charles Smith, M P, John Diamond, M P, and (after his resignation as General Secretary) Bosworth Monck. Professor Blackett, Christopher Mayhew, Raymond Postgate and Geoffrey Wilson resigned at various dates owing to pressure of work.

## STAFF

Bosworth Monck resigned and left the office on 15th March; he has taken up a post with the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, Ltd. His successor, appointed at the same starting salary, is Andrew Filson, late assistant secretary to the Parliamentary Labour Party, and formerly research assistant to G. D. H. Cole; we hope that this appointment will further the collaboration with the Party which has been progressing so steadily, both nationally and regionally, during the year.

In June, H. D. Hughes found that his duties as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Education made it very difficult for him to continue as Organising Secretary, and he resigned. In the same month Stuart Scott was appointed Chief Clerk, and Jeffrey Turnell, Membership Secretary in October; these two appointments both strengthened the central machinery, and made it possible to do without an Organising Secretary for the time at least. The post of Home Research Secretary was held for a time by Leo Pliatzky—who is now in the Civil Service—and since then by Lionel Jolley. Rosemary Burke, Assistant Secretary since 1945, left to take a post in market research, and has been succeeded by Margaret Locke. Anne Whyte was appointed

International Secretary in September; at the moment there is no Assistant to her. Rita Hinden has been on leave writing a book, and Marjorie Nicholson has been acting as Secretary to the Colonial Bureau, with the part-time assistance of Edith Moore. In the bookshop, Donald Turnbull was called up in September, and Bernard Cox has been acting as Manager; we hope shortly to see Graham Martin back from the Navy, but regret that Phyllis Knight is leaving to run a shop in the country. There have been the usual changes among clerical and junior workers, leaving us with a total staff at 31st March of 31, of whom 7 are part-time.

## DEATHS

We deeply regret the untimely death in harness of Ellen Wilkinson, Minister of Education, and for long a member of the Executive—and one, moreover, who while a Cabinet Minister found time to appear at Executive meetings; appreciations have appeared in *Fabian News* and the *Quarterly*. H. G. Wells, one of the most brilliant controversial intellects ever found in the Society, died in November; our older members will recall his battles with Shaw and the Webbs. The death of Will Thorne at ninety brings back the days of the 1889 Dock Strike. E. F. Errington (who left us a legacy) was one of our most faithful supporters.

## COMMITTEES

The membership of the main committees is as follows:—

### Finance and General Purposes Committee

A. Emil Davies (Chair), Margaret Cole, H. D. Hughes, M P, Professor Laski, Ian Mikardo, M P, John Parker, M P, Arthur Skeffington, M P.

### Colonial Bureau

J. F. Horrabin (Chair), H. N. Brailsford, Margaret Cole, Olive R. Cruchley, Andrew Dalgleish, Lord Faringdon, Dr M. Fortes, C. W. W. Greenidge, Professor Julian Huxley, Dr W. A. Lewis, the Earl of Listowel, Dr Kenneth Little, Dr Audrey Richards, Professor T. S. Simey, F. Skinnard, M P, R. W. Sorensen, M P, Leonard Woolf, Margaret Wrong, D. R. Rees-Williams, M P.

### International Bureau

Leonard Woolf (Chair), Doreen Warriner (Vice-Chair), Mildred Bamford, H. N. Brailsford, James Callaghan, M P, Margaret Cole, R. H. S. Crossman, M P, Ernest Davies, M P, Maurice Edelman, M P, W. N. Ewer, Lord Faringdon, W. Arnold Forster, Patrick Gordon-Walker, M P, Helen Grant, Jim Griffiths, M P, Denis Healey, Rita Hinden, Harold Laski, John R. Marrack, *Michael Stewart, W. N. Warbey, M P, *Geoffrey Wilson, Dorothy Woodman, K. Zilliacus, M P.

### Local Societies and Socialist Propaganda Committee

Arthur Skeffington, M P (Chair), H. Atkinson, Dr N. Barou, Joan Bourne, Margaret Cole, Emil Davies, J P, L C C, Jack Gray, H. D. Hughes, M P, J. P. M. Millar, Edith Moore, Maurice Orbach, M P, John Parker, M P, John Pinkerton, J. W. Raisin, Ruby Seaton, R. Underhill. Regional and Area members: Councillor A. Ballard (Yorkshire), A. Bothwell, B. Matthewson J P (London), James Johnson (West Midlands), Gwyneth Morgan, J P (S. Wales), Maxwell Muir (Lancashire and Cheshire), Sybil Prinsky (Northern), R. A. Raffan (Scotland), Cyril Speller (Hampshire and Dorset), Joyce Worley (Middlesex).

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* Resigned during the year.

RESEARCH PLANNING COMMITTEE

Professor Laski (Chair), Mark Abrams, Dr N. Barou, *Professor Blackett, *Professor G. D. H. Cole, Margaret Cole, E. F. M. Durbin, M P, Lord Faringdon, Jack Gray, H. D. Hughes, M P, *Christopher Mayhew, M P, J. Parker, M P, Dr W. A. Robson, Leonard Woolf, Michael Young.

ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE

E. F. M. Durbin, M P (Chair), J. Aplin, F. Cobb, M P, Margaret Cole, L. John Edwards, M P, Jack Gray, Douglas Jay, N. Kaldor, M P, Dr W. Arthur Lewis, Ian Mikardo, M P, Charles Smith, M P, G. D. N. Worswick.

POLITICAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Dr W. A. Robson (Chair), D. N. Chester, Lord Chorley, Margaret Cole, R. H. S. Crossman, M P, H. R. G. Greaves, Frank Hardie, H. D. Hughes, M P, J. E. MacColl, R. S. W. Pollard, Peter Self, W. T. Wells, M P, Michael Young.

SCHOOLS AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Ian Mikardo, M P (Chair), Dorothy Archibald, G. R. Blanco-White, James Callaghan, M P, Margaret Cole, Lyndal Evans, H. D. Hughes, M P, H. Humphreys, Hugh Jenkins, Dr D. Stark Murray, John Parker, M P, Mrs Parker, Doreen Price, Margaret Room, Margaret Yates.

## ASSISTANCE FROM MEMBERS

We are grateful to the following members who have done typing for us at home, or given assistance in general office work during the year: Miss Eva Brooks, Mrs. Molly Clayton, Mrs K. Cox, Mr D. H. Glanville, Mr A. Insall, Mrs C. G. Miles, Miss Betty Minister, Mr J. Perry, Mr E. L. Roussett, Mrs K. Smythe, Mrs Frances Turnell.

## DELEGATES, ETC.

Margaret Cole was delegate to the Labour Party's Annual Conference in 1946, during which a crowded Fabian tea meeting heard Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer. John Parker, M P, represented us on the London Labour Party; Arthur Skeffington, M P, has been nominated for 1947/8 after consultation with our London Regional Committee. Mrs L'Estrange Malone represented the Women's Group on the Standing Joint Committee of Working Women's Organisations.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The 63rd Annual General Meeting was held at the Imperial Hotel, Woburn Place, on June 29th, with G. D. H. Cole in the chair. The attendance was exceptionally large. The Annual Report and Accounts were adopted and thanks accorded to the Auditors, Messrs Pegg, Robertson, Antrobus & Co., who were re-appointed.

## AUTUMN LECTURES

These were held in the Central Hall, Westminster, under the general title of *The Individual in the Socialist State.* The programme was:

Hugh Dalton—*The Taxpayer in the Socialist State.*
Charles Dukes—*The Trade Unionist in the Socialist State.*

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* Resigned during the year.

Professor Blackett—*The Scientist in the Socialist State.*
Kingsley Martin—*The Journalist in the Socialist State.*
J. B. Priestley—*The Artist in the Socialist State.*
Dr Stephen Taylor—*The Professional Man in the Socialist State.*

## SUMMER SCHOOLS, ETC.

The Summer Schools were again fully booked up. At Dartington, David Stark Murray, Bosworth Monck and Margaret Room acted as Directors, and Miss D. Price as Manageress. The lecturers included : S. Berger, Ritchie Calder, R. H. S. Crossman, M P, S. N. Evans, M P, C. E. M. Joad, Christopher Mayhew, M P, Stephen Taylor, M P, Rt. Hon. Ellen Wilkinson.

At the Summer School at Frensham Heights, H. D. Hughes, M P, Arthur Skeffington, M P, acted as Directors and Mrs Parker was Manageress. The lecturers included: Ian Bowen, G. D. H. Cole, Margaret Cole, M. Edelman, M P, Hugh Gaitskell, M P, P. C. Gordon-Walker, M P, Ian Mikardo, M P, John Parker, M P, Miss D. Powell.

The Society held two dances during the year which were popular and well attended. We regret that lunches are still impossible to arrange.

## BOOKSHOP

In spite of the fact that many new bookshops have opened, we have managed to keep up sales over the year. We are pleased to say that although the paper position is still difficult, it has been easier to obtain some books, and we have maintained a large and varied stock of social, economic and political literature.

## PUBLICATIONS

The paper shortage hits us more and more severely. The following is the list of the year's publications:—

*Research Series :*

No. 109 *European Transport : The Way to Unity* by M. Zwalf 2/–
110 *The Rate for the Job* by Margaret Cole 1/–
111 *The Reform of Local Government Finance in England and Wales* by Michael Fogarty 2/–
112 *India's Sterling Balances* by A. C. Gilpin 6d
113 *The World Parliament of Labour* by R. J. P. Mortishead 2/–
114 *Tomorrow's Food* by Margaret Digby 1/–
115 *The New Malaya* by E. E. Dodd 1/–
116 *Taking Work to the Workers* by Margaret Stewart 1/–
117 *Jugoslavia Rebuilds* by Doreen Warriner 1/–

*Tract Series :*

No. 262 *The Future of Germany* by Anne Whyte 6d

*Socialism Today and Tomorrow Series :*

No. 1 *Socialist Economic Planning : the Overall Picture* by C. P. Mayhew, M P 6d
(This appeared also in a special edition for the National Council of Labour Colleges.)

*Colonial Controversy Series :*

No. 1 *Domination or Co-operation ?* 6d
2 *Crisis in Africa* by L. Silberman 6d
3 *Labour's Colonial Policy* 6d

*Science and Social Affairs Series :*

No. 1 *The Atom and the Charter* by P. M. S. Blackett 6d
(in conjunction with the Association of Scientific Workers)

*Socialists and the Empire—Five Years' Work of the Fabian Colonial Bureau* 1/–

*Broadsheet :*

*Transport and the Nation* edited by A. J. Champion, M P, and T. A. K. Elliott 2d
(prepared by the Fabian Society for the Labour Party)

*Books :*

*Forward from Victory : Autumn Lectures* 1945 (Gollancz) 3/6
*Co-operation in the Soviet Union* by N. Barou (Gollancz) 6/–
*Plan for Africa* by Rita Hinden (Allen & Unwin) 8/6

## REPRINTS

These have been issued as paper permits; we regret that many demands have remained unsatisfied.

## FABIAN QUARTERLY

We have attempted during the year to improve the appearance and layout of the *Quarterly* and, without dropping its character as the Society's periodical journal, to make its contents rather less domestic and of more general appeal. Space does not permit of the usual listing of articles.

# LOCAL SOCIETIES AND SOCIALIST PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE

## 1 DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL SOCIETY REGIONAL ORGANISATION

During the past year, the Committee has spent much time in developing and strengthening its Regional and Area organisation. Regional Committees exist now in Scotland, Yorkshire, South Wales, West Midlands, Northern England, Lancashire and Cheshire, and London. Where it is not yet possible to form a complete Regional Committee, representatives from a smaller number of Societies form an Area Committee; this is often the first step in developing a full Regional Committee. Area Committees exist for Hampshire and Dorset, and Middlesex, and preliminary steps have been taken to form Area Committees for Kent and Essex. Nearly 65 per cent. of all Societies now come within one or other of this type of organisation. The main work of Regional and Area Committees is to assist in the formation of new Societies and to help them until they are well established. In addition, these Committees arrange week-end schools, conferences, speakers' tours and research, and are building up their own speakers' panel. Regions are organising model conferences on important topics which can be used as a guide by local Societies. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking Regional Secretaries and Committees,

and in particular would congratulate the South Wales Regional Committee for the appointment of a Research Officer for the Area. Area and Regional Committees appoint one representative on the Local Societies Committee and this liaison has proved most beneficial.

## 2 STATISTICS

The total number of Societies at the time of going to press is 126, as compared with 103 last year—a net increase of 23.

The individual membership upon which affiliation fees have been paid is 3,427, as compared with 2,998 last year. There are, in addition, about 400 Associate Members and 600 National Members, making a total of 4,398. This is a net increase of 700, and is not unsatisfactory.

We are glad to report that 31 new Societies have been formed during the year, several in large industrial areas. Eight more are in course of formation. In the list of Societies at the end of this report, the new ones have distinctive marking.

Eight Societies have ceased to hold meetings; the failure is generally due to inability to find the right person to act as secretary.

## 3 WORK OF THE SOCIETIES

Generally, Societies are responsible for about 180 meetings per month, for which they secure wide publicity; they sell about £200 worth of Fabian literature, and conduct week-end conferences, day schools and local research. It is impossible in the space available to give any detailed survey of the work of individual societies: here, however, are a few samples.

BELFAST organised a luncheon meeting with Sir Hartley Shawcross, the Attorney General.

KINGSTON reported an attendance of nearly 1,000 at a debate on the Closed Shop between Gordon Schaffer and J. Boyd Carpenter, M P. A series of monthly lecture meetings under the general heading "Socialism Today and Tomorrow" was also arranged.

BRIGHTON.—The following cutting appeared in the *Star* of November 9th, under the heading "Blue to Pink": 'Premises in Richmond Place, Brighton, formerly the headquarters of the local Conservative Party, have been acquired by the Brighton and Hove Fabian Society, and will be known as Fabian House.'

BIRMINGHAM held a conference on Wages Policy, which was attended by affiliated organisations. The salient points of the discussion were collated into a questionnaire circulated to local Fabian Societies and others.

BATH.—We are very glad to report the publication of the survey of the health service of Bath, prepared by members of the Bath Fabian Society with an introduction by Dr. Stephen Taylor, M P.

LEEDS AND HULL report continued use of their Brains Trust by various Labour Parties, particularly in the rural constituencies.

SHEFFIELD, LEEDS, COVENTRY AND BIRMINGHAM are outstanding among the Societies which have continued to hold delegate conferences on a variety of special subjects such as "Trade Unions in a Planned Society", "Nationalisation of Road Transport", etc.

DUNDEE is one of the Societies that has during the year sent speakers to Ward Committees, etc., on the work of the Fabian Society.

CARDIFF.—Research work was completed by the Cardiff Fabian Society on "Children's Attendances at Cardiff Cinemas and Cinema Clubs", as a report of a representative committee gathered by the Society.

WOLVERHAMPTON produced a report which has been accepted by the D L P's and Trades Councils on the need for a Socialist newspaper in Wolverhampton.

## 4 LOCAL SOCIETIES COMMITTEE

The Committee has met regularly during the year, and in addition to its ordinary work has initiated week-end conferences at Surrey Crest, near Caterham, and Tong Hall, near Bradford, on the work of local Societies, which were attended by representatives from 25 and 14 Societies respectively. (Other conferences on the same lines were organised by Regional Committees at Dollar Beg, Birmingham and Manchester.) It also started a development fund to assist newly formed Societies, which in the past have too often lived on the purse of the original convener. Contributions to this fund total £20 —we should very much like it to be more—and six Societies have received advances. A small sub-committee, with Mary Stewart (City of London) as convener, has been formed to advise local Societies on research. Eight numbers of the Directive have been issued, with messages from Herbert Morrison and Charles Dukes (Lord Dukeston), and special supplements on methods of joining subscribing bodies, methods of securing liaison with local Trade Unions, and on making the best use of publications of the Society. Notes for speakers visiting local Societies were prepared by Ruby Seaton for the Committee. Liaison with the Labour Party is secured by the presence on the Committee of John Pinkerton, J. W. Raisin, Joan Bourne and Reginald Underhill, and we have also received much assistance from the Regional Officers of the Party. We record with regret the resignation of Alban Flanders from the Vice-Chairmanship of the Committee on his appointment to work in Germany.

It was thought that the development of Local Societies might be on rather a smaller scale in the past 12 months. This has not been so. It is clear that in most areas of the country a local Society can provide opportunities for local research, Socialist education and policy discussion in a way not possible for any other organisation within the Movement. It is important also to secure the interest of a large number of technicians and professional people many of whom supported the Party in the election, but who have not yet formally identified themselves with the Party. Local Societies can provide an introduction for them, and for many others, by its rather more specialised approach to political, social and economic problems. We must, however, note that all this development adds considerably to the cost of the central services; the Committee is now considering ways and means of meeting part of that cost.

# HOME RESEARCH

### STAFF

The Home Research Department has completed another successful year, in spite of the staffing difficulties mentioned earlier in the Report. During the handover periods the department relied largely on Mrs Watson, to whom especial thanks are due.

### PUBLICATIONS

The Department has during the year published the following pamphlets:

*Taking Work to the Workers* (by Margaret Stewart)

*The Reform of Local Government Finance* (by Michael Fogarty)

*Socialist Economic Planning* (by C. P. Mayhew) (the first of a Series "Socialism Today and Tomorrow")

It co-operated with the Labour Party in bringing out the broadsheet *Transport for the Nation* and with the Association of Scientific Workers in producing the pamphlet *The Atom and the Charter* by Professor P. M. S. Blackett.

The Department also helped with the production of Dr N. Barou's book *Co-operation in the Soviet Union.* A revised (third) edition of the book *Social Security*, edited by Dr. W. A. Robson, has been sent to the press. Also, revised and enlarged editions of the pamphlets *The Education Act, 1944*, by Shena D. Simon and *The Care of Homeless Children* by Helen Donington were prepared and printed.

## CONFERENCES

During the year the Department arranged two conferences, the subjects being *The Future of the Universities* (January 1947), and *Incentives in Industry* (Buscot Park, February 1947), and also collaborated in a third on *Labour's Second Five Years.*

## COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

The principal committees under which the Home Research Department works are the Economics and Industrial Committee (Chairman, E. F. M. Durbin), the Political and Local Government Committee (Chairman, Dr W. A. Robson), and the Education Committee (Chairman, Harold Shearman). In addition to their activity in supervising the preparation of pamphlets and the organising of conferences, these have started or continued several special groups in the course of the year. Of these the principal ones are:

Distribution (Chairman, Charles Smith, M P)

Incentives in Industry (Chairman, John Diamond, M P)

Problems of Management (Joint Group with the Association of Supervisory Staffs, Engineers and Technicians. Chairman, John Aplin)

Foreign Trade (Chairman, N. Kaldor)

Regionalism (Chairman, Dr W. A. Robson)

Reform of the Higher Civil Service (Chairman, Bosworth Monck)

Arts and Amenities (Chairman, Mrs Barbara Ayrton Gould, M P)

Films (Chairman, Sinclair Road)

A study of the insurance industry is also being undertaken, and an advisory group has been appointed. A grant from the Labour Party enables us to employ a special research worker and Mrs Joan Thompson has been appointed.

## GENERAL

The department has continued its regular work of publishing *Fabian Quarterly*, seeing other department's publications as well as its own through the press, and answering many enquiries.

# WOMEN'S GROUPS

### Executive Committee

Miss Agnes Murray (Chair), Miss Vera Adamson, Mrs Molly Bolton, L C C, Miss M. Bowie, Mrs Margaret Cole, Miss I. M. Davies, Mrs. Beryl Hughes, Mrs L. L'Estrange Malone, L C C, Mrs B. Pollard, Miss Mary Sutherland, Mrs Elizabeth Thomas, Mrs Joan Thompson, L C C, Mrs Dorothy Watson (Secretary).

The Annual General Meeting of the Group was addressed by Dr Edith Summerskill, M P, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, on *The*

*Work of a Labour Minister.* Discussion Meetings have been held on the following subjects: *The Councillor's Job* (Mrs V. Creech Jones), *The Scope of Personnel Management in Modern Industry* (Miss Elisabeth Pepperell), *Displaced Persons in Germany* (Miss P. B. Manton), *The National Institute of Houseworkers* (Miss Dorothy M. Elliott) and *The Work of a Magistrate* (Miss Cecily M. Craven). A joint meeting with the Social Services Group of the Socialist Medical Association was addressed by Miss Amy Sayle on *Standards and Status of Social Workers.*

LIBRARY

The Librarian will be glad to hear from members who are able and willing to review books for the *Quarterly.* He—and others—will also be grateful if those who borrow books would return them quickly.

## COLONIAL BUREAU

In the last report, we recognised that a new phase of the work of the Colonial Bureau has been ushered in with the coming to power of the Labour Government. We were aware that we would henceforth find ourselves in a key position, and also perhaps, in a delicate one. It might have been attractive to follow a line of uncritical support and sympathetic exposition of Government policy. We felt, however, that we would be truer to Fabian traditions if we maintained an attitude of independence and acted as a friendly critic and spur, rather than an uncritical supporter. This has not been an easy role, and we have at times received criticism from both sides. We believe, however, that we have had some success, and that our reputation for independence and sincerity has been maintained.

In October 1946 Arthur Creech Jones, who has been Chairman of the Bureau since its inception until 1945, was promoted from his position as Under-Secretary for the Colonies to Secretary of State.

The membership of the Bureau has increased from 462 at the end of March 1946 to 500 on March 31st, 1947. This figure does not include the 1,150 two-guinea members of the Fabian Society who are also members of the Bureau. This latter figure has increased from 687 in 1946. The total members receiving Bureau publications are therefore 1,650, excluding those who subscribe to *Empire* without being members of the Bureau.

### PUBLICATIONS

*Empire*, which was previously a bi-monthly journal was expanded in May 1946 to a monthly, and improved in lay-out. *Empire* has a circulation of some thousands, but its influence is greater than the size of its circulation would suggest. It is quoted widely in the press dealing with colonial affairs in this country, in the Colonies and abroad.

Five pamphlets have been published during the year: *Socialism and the Empire*, by Rita Hinden; *The New Malaya*, by E. E. Dodd (both research pamphlets), and three of our new Controversy Series, *Domination or Co-operation?*, a report of speeches at the Clacton conference, *Crisis in Africa*, by Leo Silberman, and *Labour's Colonial Policy*, the speech of the Colonial Secretary to a Fabian meeting in December.

### RESEARCH

The major piece of research undertaken during the past year has been the preparation of the book on local government in the Colonies. This has

proved to be an extensive piece of work. Help has been received from friends in the Colonies who have commented on the individual chapters as they were prepared. Miss H. Allison was employed for some months to collect the basic information and prepare the first drafts of the chapters, and the book is being edited by Mr L. C. Hill of the National Association of Local Government Officers.

Research has also been undertaken on the comparative policies of the different colonial powers. It is planned to publish a book containing papers on British, French, Dutch, American, Belgian and Portuguese colonial policy.

Three studies on constitutional problems in the Colonies have also engaged the attention of the Bureau. They cover the questions of communal problems in the Colonies, the link-up of indirect rule with central legislatures, and the transfer of power from the Imperial Government to the local populations, as Colonies arrive at self-government. The papers have been prepared in liaison with the Colonies Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Labour Party. Research has also been undertaken on behalf of the Bureau on developments in Burma.

## POLITICAL ACTION

Parliamentary work has continued as before in spite of the change of government. An almost completely new team of Members of Parliament who were prepared to collaborate has been built up; and the stream of questions ventilating colonial grievances and problems has continued undiminished. Whatever government is in power this is an essential part of our work. We have maintained close contact with the Colonies sub-committee of the Parliamentary Labour Party. Lord Faringdon, its Chairman, is one of the most active of the Bureau's Committee, which also includes Mr D. R. Rees-Williams, Mr F. Skinnard and Mr R. Sorensen, all spokesmen on colonial affairs in Parliament. The subjects to which the Bureau has drawn the attention of Parliament in the course of the year are too numerous to detail here—they run into suggestions for some hundreds of Parliamentary questions.

## COMMUNICATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Letters and memoranda have been addressed to the Prime Minister, the Colonial Office and the Dominions Office on about 20 different subjects during the year. These included the future of South West Africa and the High Commission Territories, discriminatory legislation in Southern Rhodesia, the unsatisfactory political position in Cyprus, problems connected with the cession of Sarawak, the position of the Indian minority in Ceylon, the unsatisfactory conditions in Hong Kong, support for a petition to enquire into conditions in Bermuda, dissatisfaction with the re-imposition of flogging in Trinidad, the status of African medical officers in Uganda, proposals for meeting the lack of confidence on the part of Colonial peoples towards the British Government, proposals for the establishment of a colonial mining corporation and the appointment of a mining adviser to the Colonial Office, and difficulties in the way of the development of consumers' co-operatives in West Africa.

In May 1946 Lord Addison received a deputation from the Bureau to discuss certain discriminatory legislation in Southern Rhodesia. This was led by Lord Faringdon who was accompanied by a number of Labour M Ps and members of the Bureau Committee. Following on this discussion and subsequent correspondence, Lord Addison, the Dominions Secretary, arranged for the Bureau to meet Sir Godfrey Huggins, the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, on his next visit to this country. This meeting took place in February 1947. A strong delegation of M Ps and the Bureau Committee again supported

Lord Farringdon and a full discussion on discriminatory laws in Southern Rhodesia took place, which received considerable publicity in the press.

### PRESS

The Bureau continues to be in touch with many of the national and weekly papers, and editorial notes and articles have been provided on all subjects.

### CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

In April 1946 an outstandingly successful weekend conference was arranged at Clacton to discuss the relationship between Britain and the colonial peoples. The report of this conference was published in the Controversy series pamphlets referred to above. Following on the conference, a special meeting was held between a number of those who had taken part in it, to discuss putting practical proposals before the Secretary of State designed to improve relationships. These proposals were eventually embodied in a memorandum which was sent to the Colonial Office in October 1946.

In April Mr T. Reid, M P, spoke at an afternoon tea meeting arranged by the Bureau and discussed the position in Malaya. In December a big public meeting was held at the Conway Hall, London, which was addressed by Mr Creech Jones who gave one of his first public speeches as Secretary of State. This has since been reprinted in the Controversy Series. There were very many colonials present, and the Secretary of State answered numerous questions which were put to him from the floor.

### ORGANISATION

Dr M. Fortes, Dr Kenneth Little, Mr D. R. Rees-Williams, M P, Dr Audrey Richards and Mr F. Skinnard, M P, have been co-opted to the Advisory Committee. We received with great regret the resignation of Sir T. Drummond Shiels who was unable, in his present appointment in the Civil Service, to continue membership. Sir Drummond Shiels has been a staunch supporter of the Bureau from its inception.

The Bureau maintains close contacts with the Imperial Advisory Committee of the Labour Party, the Anti-Slavery Society, the Colonial Group at Chatham House, and the Colonial Committee of the Howard League for Penal Reform. During the year, Dr Arthur Lewis and Sir Drummond Shiels, both members of the Bureau's Advisory Committee, were appointed as members of the new Colonial Economic Development Council, and Dr Rita Hinden, the Secretary, was appointed to the Colonial Office Labour Advisory Committee.

## INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

### RESEARCH

The Bureau decided to concentrate on research rather than on international co-operation through personal contacts, although it is hoped to pursue such contacts through periodical schools in this country for young socialists.

The research programme was reviewed in the autumn 1946, with the intention of limiting the number of projects on hand at any one time, in order that a majority of projects on hand should actually be published, or circulated in some form. Such limitation was considered necessary both because the newsprint quota has been progressively cut down, and because the staff of the Bureau now consists of one Research Secretary and a Secretary to the Research Secretary. This, incidentally, meant that some projects had to be abandoned.

During the year five pamphlets have been published:—

*European Transport—the Way to Unity*, by M. Zwalf, March 1946
*World Parliament of Labour*, by R. J. P. Mortished, June 1946
*Tomorrow's Food*, by Margaret Digby, October 1946
*Jugoslavia Rebuilds*, by Doreen Warriner, December 1946
*The Future of Germany*, by Anne Whyte, March 1947

In addition to these five pamphlets, three papers were prepared during the year for circulation to the Foreign Affairs Group of the Parliamentary Labour Party. " A Policy for the Ruhr " was circulated in April 1946. " The World Food Situation " and " British Broadcasts to Foreign Countries " were both circulated in May 1946. The " Future of Germany " was similarly circulated in February 1947. (This paper was the basis of the pamphlet published in March.)

In reviewing the research work to be done over the current year, it was decided to limit work to the following projects, which should be published in 1947/48, if suitable authors can be found:—

1. International voting systems.
2. Russian economic policy in Europe.
3. Catholicism as a political force in Europe.
4. The Labour movement in Latin America.

## MEETINGS AND RECEPTIONS

Two receptions were held in May and November respectively for delegates to the Labour Party's International Socialist Conferences. About 30 foreign socialists attended each reception. G. D. H. Cole spoke at the May reception on the " Influence of the Fabian Society on British Life and Thought ". Lord Faringdon received the guests on both occasions.

In July 1946 Ernest Davies spoke on " Czechoslovakia " to a small gathering, on his return from a visit to that country. Allan Flanders was in the chair.

In December 1946, a small reception was held to welcome the German Social-Democratic Party delegation visiting this country at the invitation of the Labour Party. The delegation of five included Dr Kurt Schumacher, leader of the Party, and Dr Agartz, their economic adviser, both of whom spoke shortly about Germany. Mr James Griffiths, M P, Minister of National Insurance, was in the Chair.

## DELEGATION TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A special delegation of six visited Czechoslovakia in September 1946. The members were James Callaghan, M P, Sheila Grant Duff, H. D. Hughes, M P, Carol Johnson, John Parker, M P, and Michael Young. The report of their visit will be published as a short book by Allen and Unwin in June 1947 under the title *Czechoslovakia : Six Studies in Reconstruction.*

## SOCIALIST FOREIGN POLICY

The Bureau has been attempting to examine the whole question of Socialist Foreign Policy. Several papers putting forward conflicting views have been written by members of the Advisory Committee. In view of the intense interest shown in this subject by the whole Labour Movement, the Chairman of the Bureau is attempting to edit all the papers, with the possible intention of

publishing a short pamphlet or circulating a paper to the Parliamentary Labour Party's Foreign Affairs Group.

### MEMBERSHIP

The minimum Subscription to the Bureau is 7/6. There are now 340 members, and 1,209 members of the main Society who have opted to belong to the Bureau as well.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS GROUP

### OFFICERS OF THE GROUP

Lord Faringdon (Chair), T. C. Boyd (Secretary).

The main work of the Bureau has been to promote informal contacts with visiting Indians of many shades of opinion. Discussion meetings have been addressed by the Indian Ambassador in London, by Dr Ambedhar, leader of the Scheduled Castes Federation, by Congress Socialists, by Moslems and by Independents. Some of these meetings were arranged jointly by the Group and the India Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion must be as short as the report. This has been in some ways a difficult year, for the country, for the Labour Government, for the Labour Party, and for ourselves. We have come through, and come through with the conviction that in all the work with which we have been connected, the need for the Fabian Society, that is, for an independent Socialist body which can make suggestions or criticisms, initiate discussions, and train recruits without committing the official machinery, or anyone else, to its opinions, is as great as ever it was. The value of a Socialist Society of individuals does not cease with the advent of this or any other Government. But its value will be far less unless it is adequately financed. This is not as yet the case, and we must renew with greater urgency the appeal made on the closing page of our last Report for more members and more money. Give us the tools.

H. J. Laski (*Chairman*)
Margaret I. Cole (*Hon. Secretary*)
A. Emil Davies (*Hon. Treasurer*)
Andrew Filson (*Gen. Secretary*)

Mark Abrams
N. Barou
John Diamond
E. F. M. Durbin
Faringdon
Patrick Gordon-Walker
J. C. Gray
J. F. Horrabin
H. D. Hughes
Bosworth Monck
Arthur Lewis
Ian Mikardo
John Parker
W. A. Robson
Charles Smith
Michael Stewart
John Strachey
Leonard Woolf
Michael Young
A. Skeffington

## REPORT OF THE HON. TREASURER

The Revenue and Expenditure Account shows that during the financial year the Society's expenditure exceeded revenue by £367 2s. 11d., after crediting revenue with £500 reserve no longer required, a state of affairs which obviously must not continue indefinitely. During a period when the cost of everything has increased, the Society's standard subscription rates have remained unchanged. The rise in subscriptions includes considerable arrears collected during the year. The average amount of each subscription returned to members in the shape of free literature is in the neighbourhood of 8s 6d.

Investments in the Balance Sheet consist almost wholly of Defence Bonds and Savings Certificates; these, however, are not free assets, as they are held against the Edwards Bequest Fund which is specially earmarked, and the Staff Savings Fund.

Having occupied the post of Honorary Treasurer for several years, I feel the time has come to transfer to younger shoulders the burden of that post, and am gratified that Ian Mikardo, M P, will be my successor. I remain, however, one of the Trustees of the Dartmouth Street Trust, and take this opportunity to urge members to respond to the appeal which accompanies this Report.

A. EMIL DAVIES.

*19th May*, 1947.

## BALANCE SHEET AS

### LIABILITIES

| 1946 | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2,500 | Bernard Shaw Fund | | 2,500 0 0 |
| 1,000 | Edwards Bequest Fund | | 1,000 0 0 |
| 500 | Property Contingent Fund | | 0 0 0 |
| 684 | Staff Savings Reserve | | 662 4 9 |
| 20 | Scholarship Fund | | 11 9 0 |
| | Sundry Creditors: | | |
| 988 | Trade | 974 15 0 | |
| 842 | For Expenses, etc., accrued | 259 10 3 | |
| — | Bank Overdraft | 1,258 19 11 | |
| | | | 2,493 5 2 |
| | Revenue Account: | | |
| 139 | Balance at 1st April, 1946 | 139 7 9 | |
| | *Less* Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year | 367 2 11 | |
| | Balance *per contra* | 227 15 2 | |
| 6,673 | | | £6,666 18 11 |

We have examined the accounts of the Fabian Society for the year ended and explanations we have required. We certify that the Balance Sheet above set Society's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given

PEGG, ROBERTSON, ANTROBUS & CO.
Chartered Accountants, Auditors.

## REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE

| 1946 | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | To Office Expenses: | | |
| 4,943 | Salaries, etc. | 6,642 11 0 | |
| 843 | Rent, Rates, Lighting, Housekeeper, etc. | 894 5 2 | |
| 712 | Postage and Parcels | 802 14 0 | |
| 161 | Telephone | 203 17 7 | |
| 677 | General Printing and Stationery | 912 1 8 | |
| 339 | Fabian News and Quarterly | 611 5 0 | |
| 366 | Travelling and General Expenses | 358 12 1 | |
| 8,041 | | | 10,425 6 6 |
| 430 | ,, Pensions | | 450 0 0 |
| 84 | ,, Affiliation Fees | | 96 5 5 |
| — | ,, Expenses of Membership Drive | | 713 1 5 |
| £8,555 | | | £11,684 13 4 |

## AT 31st MARCH 1947

ASSETS

| 1946 | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2,500 | FREEHOLD PROPERTY .. .. .. .. | | 2,500 0 0 |
| 1,568 | INVESTMENTS.. .. .. .. .. .. | | 1,652 10 3 |
| 125 | FURNITURE .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 125 0 0 |
| 100 | LIBRARY .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 100 0 0 |
| | STOCKS IN HAND: | | |
| 850 | Tracts, etc. .. .. .. .. .. | 738 4 3 | |
| 200 | Stationery .. .. .. .. .. | 200 0 0 | |
| | | | 938 4 3 |
| | SUNDRY DEBTORS: | | |
| 61 | Trade .. .. .. .. .. .. | 147 13 0 | |
| 655 | Bookshop .. .. .. .. .. | 505 17 9 | |
| 298 | For Sundries .. .. .. .. .. | 286 12 7 | |
| | | | 940 3 4 |
| 316 | CASH IN HAND .. .. .. .. .. | | 183 5 11 |
| — | REVENUE ACCOUNT: Balance *per contra* .. | | 227 15 2 |
| 6,673 | | | £6,666 18 11 |

31st March, 1947, with the books and vouchers. We have obtained all the information forth is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the us and as shown by the Society's books.

39, Cheapside, London, E.C.2.

19*th May*, 1947.

## YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1947

| 1946 | | £ s. d. | £. s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3,933 | By Subscriptions .. .. .. .. .. | | 6,502 3 8 |
| 2,763 | ,, Donations .. .. .. .. | | 3,529 9 5 |
| | ,, Balances transferred: | | |
| 789 | May, Summer and New Year Schools | 558 9 3 | |
| 262 | Conferences and Lectures .. .. | 33 10 5 | |
| 69 | Dances .. .. .. .. .. | 18 17 10 | |
| | | 610 17 6 | |
| | *Less* Lunches, Meetings and Jubilee Rally .. .. .. .. | 153 3 1 | |
| | | | 457 14 5 |
| 357 | ,, Publications and Bookshop Account .. | | 328 2 11 |
| — | ,, Property Reserve Account transferred .. | | 500 0 0 |
| 382 | ,, Balance, being Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year .. .. .. | | 367 2 11 |
| £8,555 | | | £11,684 13 4 |

# ADDRESSES OF FABIAN SECRETARIES

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HANTS AND DORSET: Mr Cyril Speller, 687, Wimborne Road, Winton, Bournemouth.

MIDDLESEX: Miss J. Worley, 23, Linkenholt Mansions, Stamford Brook, W 6.

---

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BRIGHTON: Mrs Voller, 49, Southdown Avenue, Brighton.

* Societies formed since 31st March, 1946.

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*CHEPSTOW F S: Mrs M. Collins, Moat House, Chepstow, Mon.

*CHESTERFIELD: Mr D. Webster, The Labour Party Office, 19, Broad Pavement, Chesterfield.

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CHISWICK: Miss Joyce Worley, 23, Linkenholt Mansions, Stamford Brook, W 6.

*CITY OF COVENTRY TRAINING COLLEGE: Mr H. Speak, P2–20, City of Coventry Training College, Charter Avenue, Coventry.

CITY OF LONDON: Mrs M. Stewart, 6, Amen Court, St. Paul's, E C 4.

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COVENTRY: Mr James Johnson, 31, Westminster Road, Coventry.

CREWE: Mr Thomas Horton, 84, Gresty Road, Crewe.

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WATFORD: Mr Peter Sharpe, 20, Orchard Close, Watford.

*WELLINGTON: Mr L. L. Kirkwood, 30, Leegomery, Hadley Park Road, Nr. Wellington, Shropshire.

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*WOODFORD: Mr E. T. Sandford, 4, Portman Drive, Woodford Green.

*YORK: Mr Jack Blitz, 189, Carr Lane, York.

Printed by The Hereford Times Ltd.,
General Printing Works (T.U.),
London and Hereford. L4347.